



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

## Hood Canal Bridge East-half Replacement and West-half Retrofit Project

# Temporary Passenger-Only Water Shuttle



A fare-free passenger-only water shuttle service between South Point and Lofall will be provided during the six-week closure of the Hood Canal Bridge in May-June 2009.

### Water Shuttle Quick Facts

**Operates May-June 2009**

**Service every 30 minutes**

**Route: South Point to Lofall**

**Hours: 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.**

**Capacity: 149 people per sailing**

**Available to emergency providers  
24-hours a day, seven days a week**



#### Why is WSDOT operating a passenger-only water shuttle?

The water shuttle service will provide the quickest access across the Hood Canal during the closure and help reduce congestion on the main alternate route, US 101. The water shuttle was the preferred travel option selected by spring 2008 WSDOT survey participants.

#### How will the water shuttle work?

The water shuttles will operate every 30 minutes and transport up to 149 people per sailing between South Point in Jefferson County and Lofall in Kitsap County. From the docks, buses will take riders to communities and cities or their vehicles at nearby park and rides.

#### What should I do with my car when I ride the water shuttle?

Riders will be able to use the park and ride lots near the water shuttle docks during the six-week closure.

- The park and ride for the South Point water shuttle dock will be located at Shine Pit, which can be accessed from State Route 104. A bus will transport travelers between the dock and the park and ride.
- The park and ride for the Lofall water shuttle will be located at Port Gamble. A bus will transport travelers between the dock and the park and ride.

#### Will the park and rides be secure?

Twenty-four hour security will be provided and the lots will be well-lit for drivers and riders. Overnight parking will be available.

#### What if I usually bicycle the route?

Bicyclists can pedal to park and rides and lock their bikes to one of the on-site racks or they can bring their bicycles across the canal on the water shuttle. A limited number of bicycles will be allowed aboard each water shuttle sailing.

#### How do I continue to my destination once I am across the canal?

Residents and visitors can drive their vehicles, take a carpool, or vanpool to their destinations from the park and ride lots. Existing and temporary transit services will run during the closure so passengers can take buses to their destinations in Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties.



### Why South Point to Lofall?

While WSDOT reviewed a number of routes, the South Point to Lofall water shuttle was selected in June 2008 as the best available option in terms of helping area residents get around during the May-June 2009 Hood Canal Bridge closure.

- In a spring 2008 survey, it was selected as the preferred option by respondents
- It offers the fastest water shuttle route across the Hood Canal for people who make essential trips for work, school and medical care. Having quick, reliable access across the canal during the closure was a primary concern of bridge users
- Route avoids Hood Canal Bridge construction zone
- Emergency medical service providers back the option because it provides the most direct available route across Hood Canal

### How much time with the water shuttle save me?

The water shuttle will save travelers both time and money during the six-week closure by providing direct, fare-free access across the Hood Canal. The charts below show estimated travel times with and without the water shuttle.

#### Estimated drive times/mileage with water shuttle

	Poulsbo/ Kingston	Bremerton/ Pt Orchard	Seattle (via Bainbridge ferry)
<b>Sequim/ Pt. Angeles</b>	1 h 50m 46 miles	2 h 10m 65 miles	2 h 53m 67 miles
<b>Port Townsend</b>	1 h 34m 31 miles	1 h 54m 50 miles	2 h 37m 52 miles
<b>Port Ludlow</b>	1 h 13m 16 miles	1 h 33m 35 miles	2 h 16m 37 miles

#### Estimated drive times/mileage without water shuttle

	Poulsbo/ Kingston	Bremerton/ Pt Orchard	Seattle (via US101 & I5)
<b>Sequim/ Pt. Angeles</b>	3 h 7m 142 miles	2 h 26m 108 miles	3 h 17m 168 miles
<b>Port Townsend</b>	2 h 53m 132 miles	2 h 12m 97 miles	3 h 4m 158 miles
<b>Port Ludlow</b>	2 h 48m 130 miles	2 h 21m 102 miles	2 h 59m 156 miles

### What if I need immediate medical attention?

The water shuttle will operate under the same medical protocol as the Washington State Ferries, based on the level of care determined by the responding medical providers. Water shuttles...

- will be available 24/7 to assist with medical transports
- will alter their scheduled runs as necessary to assist in a medical transport
- will accommodate both patients and medical personnel during an emergency incident

### What is WSDOT doing to help drivers during the bridge closure?

WSDOT is working with local businesses and communities to implement a viable plan to best serve those affected.

Along with the water shuttle, the plan includes:

- Additional signage on alternate routes
- Medical bus service for patients with scheduled life-sustaining treatments throughout Kitsap County and in Seattle
- Transit connections from the water shuttle docks to destinations in Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties
- Public involvement efforts
- Rideshare efforts
- Monitoring and maintaining alternate routes during the closure to keep traffic moving

### Why is WSDOT closing the Hood Canal Bridge?

The east half of the bridge is nearing the end of its service life and needs replacement. To accomplish this work, the bridge is scheduled to be closed for six weeks beginning May 1, 2009. The project will make the bridge wider, safer and more affordable to maintain.

### How can I prepare for the closure?

- Schedule your trips before or after the closure.
- If you have to travel, plan your trips ahead of time.
- Check [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com) for frequent closure updates and details on how you can get around.
- Sign up for e-mail updates at [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com) or call the project toll-free line at (877) 595-HCB2 (4222).

### WSDOT Hood Canal Bridge Project Office

950 Broadway, Suite 501  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Phone: (253) 305-6400  
E-mail: [orfeedback@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:orfeedback@wsdot.wa.gov)  
[www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com)